

Atty Dkt. No.: NATH-003
USSN: 10/799,925

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 5 as follows:

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Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e), this application claims priority to the filing date of the United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/532,699 filed December 24, 2003 and to the filing date of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/[] 457,527 filed on March 24, 2003; the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 38, line 25 as follows:

Under the conditions above, RNA templates ligated to yield very accurate [] data while non-specific ligation background was significantly reduced. When the identical ligation mix was ligated at 42° C, efficiency of ligation dropped 10-100 fold to yield incorrect data.